

Having Fun Writing With Your Children

Think of all of the ways you use writing as an adult everyday. Writing is an important skill children begin working on as early as preschool through adulthood. Writing is actually your thinking on paper and is an important learning skill. You can make writing a fun part of your family time at home. Don't start thinking of long essays for your child to write. Instead, here are some short fun-filled activities to make part of your family time at home.

Have lots of paper in different places around the house. Have a special box of crayons, markers, pens, and colored pencils. For young children, drawing is actually the beginning of writing. Ask your young and elementary age children to tell you about their drawings.

Find ways to include writing in your everyday activities. Make lists of items needed for a special project or dinner. Have your children make the weekly shopping list and have your children cross out the items as you find them. Have children write a note for something they want you to remember. Have your children exchange notes with you and other family members by putting notes in special places like in lunch boxes, under pillowcases, or in drawers.

Write letters or emails to family members and friends. Stop buying cards and have your children make cards and write letters. Have your children write a letter for each special occasion such as the holidays and birthdays. The letter along with a picture makes a perfect card. Have your children make the wrapping paper for presents. Have your children write words and short message along with drawings on brown paper bags. Use the brown paper bags to wrap your presents.

Encourage your child to keep a journal. Get a special notebook for their journal. Have them write about things that happen to them at home and school. Have them write about how they feel and what they like or dislike. Encourage your child to copy poems, songs, quotes, or stories they like.

Make family photos a writing project. Have your children collect the family photos and write captions for the photos using mailing labels they attach to the back of the photo.

Finally, most importantly, praise your child's effort. The writing may not be perfect. It may have misspellings. Instead of correcting errors, compliment the ideas your child has shared in their writing. The idea is to make writing fun and encourage positive attitudes about writing. At school, your child's teachers will continue to developing their writing skills. Together with your child's teacher, you can help your child love writing.

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